

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2019
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Wright Patman Lake**

District / Division:**Fort Worth District/Southwestern Division**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Wright Patman Lake Pollinator Project and Interpretive Trail Panels**

Corps POC Name:**Kaitlyn Benedek**

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A. Checklist:

1. Will the Handshake funds be spent on Corps facilities and resources that are being fully maintained by the Corps? (not in outgranted parks) **Yes** **No**
 2. Will the Challenge Partnership agreement be with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)? **Yes** **No**
 3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved lake project OMP? **Yes** **No**
 4. Have all of the NEPA requirements been considered for this project? **Yes** **No**
 5. I am aware the Challenge Partnership Agreement must be reviewed and Approved by District Office of Counsel before sending to HQUSACE. **Yes** **No**
 6. If the full funding amount requested is not available, could a portion of this Handshake Project be completed with partial funding? **Yes** **No**
 7. I am aware that all government funds must be spent in accordance with FAR, DFAR and AFAR contracting laws and regulations, and that Handshake funds cannot be provided to the partner(s). **Yes** **No**
 8. Did you participate in a Handshake Webinar in 2018 or review a 2018 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? **Yes** **No**
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B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$20,000): \$13,500

C. Incentive Points Category: Check the appropriate box if your application qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score.

This Lake/River Project has never received Handshake funding (250 points).

This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, but more than 10 years ago (FY 05 to FY 09 program funds) (150 points).

This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, between 5 - 10 years ago (FY 10 to FY 14 program funds) (100 points).

D. Describe your partnership and the proposed Handshake Partnership Project:

Project applications will be evaluated on the categories below. Please complete each section as appropriate.

Summary Statement:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Wright Patman Lake will partner with the Red River Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists to create a 2 acre native wildflower pollinator habitat. The pollinator habitat area will be located in an area with minimal foot traffic and no vehicular traffic. This area was previously an agricultural lease area which has rich soils to support native wildflowers which attract important pollinator species. The project will also include the purchase of interpretive panels, trailhead signs, and nature trail brochures for the nature trails around Wright Patman Lake. There will be 36 interpretive panels and 10 trailhead signs total, as well as printed brochures with maps for each trail for 3 nature trails at Clear Springs Park, 1 nature trail at Rocky Point Park, and 1 nature trail at Malden Lake Park,. The 36 interpretive panels will be a great outreach resource to our park visitors by providing a unique outdoor education experience. Park visitors will have the opportunity to learn about native wildlife, plants, and natural resource management practices that may be visible from the trail paths. The work will be accomplished by the Red River Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists who will be assisting with preparation of the 2 acre wildflower habitat, broadcasting of wildflower seeds, monitoring of germination, removal of undesirable plant species, survey and monitoring of pollinator species, and design and installation of interpretive panels.

Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:

As all of the labor for both the pollinator project and interpretive trail panel installation will be provided by Wright Patman Lake Staff, Texas Master Naturalists, and other volunteers, the funding from the Handshake Grant will be used strictly for materials. The seeds necessary for the 2 acres of the pollinator plot will cost \$4000. The herbicide spraying will cost \$2500. The 36 interpretive panels and 10 trailhead signs will cost \$2000. The brochures created for the trails, with 5000 brochures per trail, will cost \$5000.

Longevity / O&M description:

Once established, the 2 acre selected wildflower pollinator habitat will require minimal maintenance, and with the majority of these species being perennials the plants will survive for more than 2 years. This pollinator habitat will also create a regeneration seed bank to promote new plant growth and is expected to last for decades. The project will be completed in 3 phases and the majority of the work performed will be completed with volunteer services by the Red River Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists and Corps staff from the lake office. The first phase of this project will require mowing and tilling of the selected habitat by volunteer and staff labor. The second phase of this project will require a herbicide application by a State of Texas licensed applicator which will be a minimal O&M cost. The third phase of this project will require a consolidated effort by volunteers and staff to broadcast seeds over the 2 acre pollinator habitat area. This area will also require supplemental watering after broadcasting of the seeds has been completed. This will be accomplished by volunteer labor and provided equipment from the lake office. The interpretive panels will be constructed of weatherproof, fade resistant, graffiti proof, and scratch resistant materials and is rated for 10+ years. The design of the interpretive panels will be completed by in-kind services provided by the Texas Master Naturalists, which will lower the cost from the panel manufacturer. Installation of the interpretive panels will be completed in-house by volunteer and staff labor.

Partnership Value:

The Red River Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists is a community-based natural resource education and volunteer program sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Several members from the Chapter are from nearby communities, have a strong interest in protecting and enhancing the natural resources of the project, and have willing personalities to assist the staff with these tasks. Volunteers from the Chapter have already dedicated many days and hours in support of our natural resource programs, and interpretive and outreach programs. The Corps enlisted the support and expertise of the Texas Master Naturalists in regards to native wildflower re-establishment, pollinator species surveys, and design of interpretive and educational panels for our numerous nature trails through in-kind services. Members from this

organization have provided technical assistance in selecting native plant species, soil sampling, soil analysis, desired planting locations, and steps to reach desired outcomes. This partnership is critical in order to complete these projects since the staff at Wright Patman Lake is minimal and funds are limited. These projects will serve as a template for similar projects to be completed in the near future. Completion of these projects will also provide a basis for our partnership with the Texas Master Naturalist to perform educational and outreach programs to local schools and universities about the importance of native plant re-establishment, pollinator species, and provide a better understanding of the Corps mission of Environmental Stewardship. This area will provide a location for our partner to teach students about the importance of native plant restoration projects, populations of pollinator species, native ecosystems of the piney woods, and invertebrate ecology.

Recreational Benefit:

These projects will enhance the visitor experience at Wright Patman Lake by providing educational and outreach examples of native wildflower species of northeast Texas, the importance of pollinator species, and best management practices of our natural resources. Currently, the existing nature trails have no interpretive or outreach panels and the only information that is provided to our park visitors is located within the bulletin boards at some of the trailhead locations. The main objectives of these projects are to encourage visitors to learn about the benefits of native plants and to provide more opportunities for nature exploration and wildlife observation for students, community groups, and adult education programs. The interpretive panels will be an excellent educational tool to our visitors that utilize our nature trails within our parks. These panels will also promote opportunities for our Interpretive Services team members and volunteers from the Red River Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists to present interpretive programs, nature hikes, and host educational programs for local schools. The interpretive panels will be a great support tool to get kids and adults back in the great outdoors and provide an incentive to local school teachers and school administrators to participate in the Every Kid in a Park pass program. The native wildflower and pollinator project area will be an excellent educational and outreach tool to the local schools and area universities.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

The staff at Wright Patman Lake manages over 55,000 acres of forested land that supports reforestation efforts, native plant and tree establishment, and invasive species control and eradication. With the decline of certain pollinator species, loss of native wildflower habitat, expired agricultural leases, and minimal funding for management of over 90 acres of food plots; the staff and our partner are focusing efforts to enhance pollinator habitat and biodiversity. The native wildflower restoration project will provide substantial wildlife habitat and food resources. The project will also aid in the control and management of terrestrial invasive plants utilizing native wildflowers and grasses to create a beneficial habitat for pollinators and wildlife. The project area is predominantly a mixture of Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) and Giant Ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*). Although both species are a great food resource to native wildlife and birds, there has been a significant loss to suitable habitat for pollinators and native wildflowers within our region. The use of native plants will create self-sustaining communities that will not require the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers once established. The main objective of this project is to promote the importance of pollinators and the use of native plants to attract and maintain biodiversity within the ecosystem. The 36 interpretive panels will provide visitors an opportunity to learn about ecosystem management, biodiversity, and the Corps mission of Environmental Stewardship.

Communication & Education Value:

These projects will be a tremendous achievement with our partner and will create outdoor educational opportunities for the surrounding communities, school districts, and area universities. This project will also increase the opportunities for new STEM programs through local schools and area universities. This work will lead the way for similar projects in the future. The educational value will also increase the number of scheduled field trips, increase positive contacts with the public, and encourage additional partners to come forward and provide assistance. Understanding of USACE missions by the general public will be increases greatly. Staff will also be able to target schools and universities to promote these additional learning opportunities.

Innovativeness:

This project is innovative by working within an existing partnership with the Red River Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists to create a pollinator habitat and development educational interpretive panels for the nature trail system. This will be the first project of this kind for the staff and our partner at Wright Patman Lake and for all the other 5 lakes within our Region. All parties involved with this project are committed to taking these efforts forward to achieve our goals and to provide our visitors with new and exciting opportunities. The staff at Wright Patman Lake recognizes the value and importance of this commitment. We expect to continue these efforts with our partner on a continuous basis, and hope to collaborate on similar projects in the future.

Conclusion:

This project sustains the Corps' environmental stewardship and recreation missions while promoting a collaborative environment that will stimulate further partnership opportunities. It will provide an exceptional educational basis not only for our visitors, but also future partners and area students by providing potential to assist in future pollinator projects, pollinator survey work, and interpretive programs to the visiting public

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields and to enter Partner names.

You MUST enter partner names into the spreadsheet:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Texas Master Naturalists	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4
Salaries	\$7,547	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$11,000	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$30	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$5,547	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$7,130	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$8,047	\$13,500	\$13,507	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	23.0%	38.5%	38.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	61.5%					

	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	Partner 9	Partner 10
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,547
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,300
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,547
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,130
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,054
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: Explanations: A cost of \$2,500 will be used for herbicide application at the desired wildflower 2 acre seeding area that has been selected by local Corps personnel. The herbicide application will have to be conducted by a State of Texas licensed applicator to be in compliance with Federal, State, and local Environmental Laws and Regulations. As it is a service, and not a material, we felt it did not belong in the “Materials and Supply” category.